

Cow and Calfe, Item I give unto James the Sone of James Sherwood, one two year old hayfer, Item I give unto Jn<sup>o</sup>. Cevell my great gun, Item I give unto Edward Attwood Seg<sup>r</sup>. one Cow Calve to Run w<sup>th</sup> the Increase on James Sherwoods Land and the sd James Sherwood to Look after them as after his owne. In wittnesse whereof I have heerunto Sett my hand. I likewise make the sd James Sherwood my Sole Exequetor Signed Sealed In the p<sup>r</sup>sence of

us this 9th day of feb 1680

Alexand<sup>r</sup> Keeling

Jn<sup>o</sup> Corperhew.

John White & Seal

proved in court 11th may 1681

Test: WM PORTEN Cl Cur."

"Know all men these p<sup>r</sup>sents y<sup>t</sup> wee James Sherrwood and Grace Doe for a valluable Con Sideration in hand received of Cap<sup>t</sup> Plomer Bray, Doe for us ou<sup>r</sup> heires Execq<sup>r</sup> Adm<sup>r</sup> bargaine Sell Sett ov<sup>r</sup> & alien unto the afore Said Bray his heirs Execq<sup>r</sup> Adm<sup>r</sup> for Eve<sup>r</sup> a parcell of Land out of a p<sup>r</sup> Sell of Land which Land being given unto the Said Sherrwood his heires Execq<sup>r</sup> adm<sup>r</sup> or assignes p John White Carpenter w<sup>ch</sup> Land begins att a marcked pine that parts a parcell of Land comonly called p the name wilford which said willford is in the possession and occupation of the afore Said Cap<sup>t</sup> pla<sup>m</sup>er Bray being parted p marckt trees betwene the said Bray Land and the afore Said peice of Land that wee James and Grace have alienated unto y<sup>e</sup> said Bray his heires Execq<sup>r</sup> Adm<sup>r</sup> and assignes for Eve<sup>r</sup> & Soe to a marckt pine then westerly to a marckt popular and then North and by west to y<sup>e</sup> Creecke and Soe a Long y<sup>e</sup> Creecke comonly called p the Name of Basnetts Creecke the Land upon the South: Side to the first Station: which Land being aboute fifteene acres more or Less with all rights p<sup>r</sup>eviledges all mines and minerals hunting hawking which Land wee James and Grace Doe from us ou<sup>r</sup> heires Execq<sup>r</sup> Adm<sup>r</sup>s Sell to the said Bray his heirs Execq<sup>r</sup> Adm<sup>r</sup> and assignes with warrantie of thesd Land wee acknowledged ou<sup>r</sup> Selves in the penall summ of teen thousand pounds of tobac<sup>o</sup> that the a fore Said Land is Noe way Incumbered Nor Noe p Son p any means hath any claime or claimes Soe wee: James and Grace Doe oblidge ou<sup>r</sup> selves ou<sup>r</sup> heires Execq<sup>r</sup> adm<sup>r</sup>s that the afore Said Bray Shall nott bee molested p us or ou<sup>r</sup> heires Execq<sup>r</sup> Adm<sup>r</sup>s but y<sup>t</sup> said Bray shall peaceably Injoy ppossess the afore Said Land both for him Self his heires Execq<sup>r</sup> and Adm<sup>r</sup> and wee James and Grace Doe this In wittness whereof wee

Doe here Sett ou<sup>r</sup> hands and Seales this 16th of May Ann<sup>o</sup> 1690  
 Signed Sealed and Delivered James + S Sherrwood<sup>1</sup>  
 In the p<sup>r</sup>Sence of us Acknowled Grace ++ Sherrwood<sup>2</sup> and Seal  
 Law Sawyer ged in Court  
 James Jouseling 15th Sep<sup>r</sup> 1690

"Test: WM. PORTEN Cl Cur."

<sup>1</sup> In the first half of the fifteenth century very few of the laity, even of the best families, could read or write, and for some hundreds of years very few members of the Order of Malta, though they were all of noble birth, could write their names, and even in the reign of Edward the Sixth, some of the members of Parliament could not read. Late in the fourteenth century, we are informed on good authority, no Scotch baron could write his name, and James Stewart, Sheriff of But and Arran, one of eight witnesses, four of them illiterate, to a document dated Edinburgh, February 13, 1552-'53, said: "I," "with my hand at the pen and led with the hand of Maister Thomas Briden, notar." "In 1564, Robert Scot of Thulstane, ancestor of Lord Napier, could not sign his name," and three years later the marriage contract of Walter Scott of Harden was signed by a notary, because none of the parties were able to write their names. From 1551 to 1571, John Shakespeare, the poet's father, held several public positions under the town government of Stratford, and he, as did most of the members of the corporation, made his mark, and only seven persons of ninety, who signed some orders for Brighton in 1580, wrote their names, and less than one-half of the subscribers to a loyal petition from Bridgewater, in 1680, were able to write their names, and the English country gentleman of 1685 was barely able to write his name. In 1827 fifty-eight per cent. of the young men intended for the French military service could neither read nor write, and in 1841-'45 more than thirty-two per cent. of the men in England and Wales who were married during that time, signed the marriage registers with marks, and in 1866, in Italy, fifty-nine per cent. of the men who were married that year made their marks. Fourteen of thirty-five of the early settlers of Exeter, New Hampshire, July 4, 1639, made their marks. In the compact made by the original settlers of Providence, Rhode Island, four of the thirteen signers made their marks. Nearly all of the early residents of Gravesend, New York, made their marks, "very few of the English settlers being able to write." "Many of the early gentry of Maryland could not write their names," and one, if not more, of the earliest judges of the provincial court made his mark. The early Swedish settlers of Pennsylvania were very ignorant, and but few of them could write their names, and two members of the Colonial Council of Pennsylvania for 1681 made their marks. Five of the twenty-three members of Captain Lawrence's company, Groton, Massachusetts, 1758, made their marks. The founders of several influential families in Southeast Virginia were unable to write their names, and one of them was a church warden.

<sup>2</sup> Judith Shakespeare, the poet's youngest daughter, could not write her name, and "in the early part of the eighteenth century many of the ladies of the highest rank in Scotland could not write, and some of them could not even read." In New England, from 1690-1713, the daughters of men of high official



## "Princess Anne Co

At a Court held the 4th Day of february 1697

Coll Anthony Lawson

prsent M<sup>r</sup> Ben<sup>o</sup>. Burrough M<sup>r</sup> Edward Moseley Capt<sup>t</sup> Jno<sup>o</sup>  
Th<sup>o</sup>rowgood Capt<sup>t</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Moseley Justices

James Sherwood and Grace his wife Suing Richd Capps in an action of Defamacon Damages fifty pnds sterl and the Def<sup>t</sup> failing to appeare, & the Sheriffe to take security, order is granted the said Sherwood ag<sup>st</sup> the Sheriffe for it shall appeare due unlesse he produce him next Court attachm<sup>t</sup> granted y<sup>e</sup> sheriffe &c "

## "Princess Anne Co

At a Court held the third day of March 1697

present Coll: Anthony Lawson M<sup>r</sup> Edward Moseley M<sup>r</sup> Ben<sup>o</sup> Burrough M<sup>r</sup>. Evan Jones Justices

The Difference between James Sherwood and Grace his wife plain-tiffes, and Richard Capps Def<sup>t</sup> being Ended by the parties, is Ordered to be Dismist "

## "Princess Anne Co

Att a Court held the 10th of Sep<sup>r</sup> 1698.

Coll Anthony Lawson

M<sup>r</sup> Benony Burrough M<sup>r</sup> Evan Jones Cap<sup>t</sup> ffrancis Morse M<sup>r</sup> Henry Woodhouse M<sup>r</sup> Edward Moseley Cap<sup>t</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Moseley

James Sherwood and Grace his wife sueing John Gisburne and Jane his wife in a action of Slander setting forth by his petition that the Defend<sup>ts</sup> had wronged Defamed and abused the said Grace in her good name and reputation saying that she is a Witch and bewitched their piggs to Death and bewitched their Cotton

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position were often compelled to make a mark. Forty-eight per cent. of the women who were married in England and Wales from 1841-'45 made their marks in signing the marriage register, and seventy-eight per cent. of the women who were married in Italy, in 1866, made their marks.

Authorities quoted: *Life of the Duke of Ormond*, by Thomas Carte; *History of England*, by James Anthony Froude; *History of Civilization*, by Buckle; *Miscellaneous Works*, Buckle; *The Athenæum*, for August 19, 1893; *Life of Shakespeare*, by Alexander Dyce, M. A.; *Modern Habits and Customs*, by Lady Cook, in the *Westminster Review*, for March, 1894; *History of England*, Macaulay; *Encyclopædia Britannica*; *The Wentworth Genealogy*; *The Early Records of the Town of Providence*; *The Bergen Family*, by Tennis G. Bergen; *Chronicles of Baltimore*, by Colonel J. Thomas Scharf; *History of Philadelphia*, by Scharf and Westcott; *Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society*, Vol. VI., pp. 24, 25, 1890-'91; *Economic and Social History of New England*, Weedon; *The Pictorial History of England*, by Craik and Macfarlane; *Records of Lawer Norfolk and Princess Anne Counties, Virginia*.

& prays Judgment against the said Gisburne for £100 Sterling damage with Cost to which the Defend<sup>t</sup> pleadeth not guilty the whole matter being put to a Jury who bring in their Verdict as followeth Wee of the Jury find for the Defend<sup>t</sup> ffrancis Sayer foreman Christoph<sup>r</sup> Cocke Otho Russell mark Powell Thomas Walker George Warrington Rob<sup>t</sup> Renney Robert Richmond John Keeling Thomas Hall Henry Spratt Adam Hayes upon the Defend<sup>t</sup> motion It is Ordered that the Juries Verdict be Recorded and Judgmt is granted upon the same that the suit be dismist"

"James Sherwood and Grace his wife suing Anthony Barnes and Elizabeth his wife in an action of Slander setting forth by their petition that the s<sup>d</sup> Elizab<sup>t</sup> had wronged and abused the said Grace in her good name & reputation saying the s<sup>d</sup> Grace came to her one night and rid her and went out of the key hole or crack of the door like a black Catt &c prayes Judgment for 100£ sterling damage with Cost: to which the Defend<sup>t</sup> pleadeth not guilty. The whole matter being put to a Jury who bring in their Verdict as followeth Wee of the Jury find for the Defen<sup>t</sup> ffrancis Sayer fforeman, Christopher Cocke Otho Russell, Mark Powell, Thomas Walker George Warrington Rob<sup>t</sup> Renney Robert Richmond John Keeling Thomas Hall henry Spratt adam Hayes upon the Defendants motion it is Ord<sup>d</sup> that the Juries Verdict be Recorded and Judgment is granted upon the same that the suit be dismist."

"Martha Ward haveing attended the Court four dayes an Evidence for James Sherwood against John Gisburne It is Ordered that the said Sherwood pay her for the s<sup>d</sup> four days attendance according to Law with Cost als Execution."

"Susanna Williams haveing attended the Court four dayes an Evidence for James Sherwood ag<sup>st</sup> John Gisburne It is Ordered that the said Sherwood pay her for the said four days attendance with Cost als Ex<sup>o</sup>."

"John Lewis and his wife haveing attended the Court four days an Evidence for James Sherwood ag<sup>st</sup> John Gisburne It is Ordered that the said Sherwood pay to Each of them four dayes attendance according to Law with Cost als Ex<sup>o</sup>."

"Thomas Williams and Elizabeth his wife haveing attended the Court four days apeice as evidences for James Sherwood against John Gisburne It is Ordered that the said Sherwood pay to each of them for the said four dayes attendance according to Law with Cost als Ex<sup>o</sup>."

"Owen macgrary haveing attended the Court four days an Evi-

dence for James Sherwood against Anthony Barnes It is ordered that the said Sherwood pay him for the said four days attendance according to Law with Cost als Ex<sup>o</sup>."

"Edward Baker haveing attended the Court four days an Evidence for James Sherwood ag<sup>st</sup> Anthony Barnes It is Ordered that the said Sherwood pay him for the said four days attendance according to Law with Cost als Ex."

"John James having attended the Court three days an Evidence for James Sherwood against Anthony Barnes. It is ordered that the said Sherwood pay him for the said three dayes attendance according to law with Cost als Ex<sup>o</sup>."

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

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TALMAN FAMILY.



## GRACE SHERWOOD, THE VIRGINIA WITCH.

COMMUNICATED BY EDWARD W. JAMES.

## Princess Anne

At a Court held y<sup>e</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> Sep<sup>r</sup> 1701 present M<sup>r</sup> Ben<sup>o</sup> Borr<sup>o</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Henry Woodhouse, M<sup>r</sup> Rob<sup>t</sup> Thorrowgood M<sup>r</sup> Henry Spratt M<sup>r</sup> Joell Cornick Justices

Upon y<sup>e</sup> Peticon of Grace Sherwood Relict of James Sherwood y<sup>t</sup> a Commiscon of Administ<sup>r</sup>con might be granted her on her Deed Husbands Estate he Dying Intestate which is granted pvided Shee give Security for y<sup>e</sup> Same as y<sup>e</sup> Law Directs.

It is Ordered y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Sherr Som Edw: Cannon Sen<sup>r</sup> & Rich<sup>d</sup> Bonney to meet at y<sup>e</sup> late Dwelling house of James Sherwood & appraise y<sup>e</sup> S<sup>d</sup> Sherwood's Estate Upon y<sup>e</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> Day of y<sup>e</sup> Instant Sep<sup>r</sup> Provided they bee ffirst Sworne for y<sup>t</sup> Porpose & m<sup>r</sup> Joell Cornick is Requested to bee y<sup>n</sup> & theare to Sweare y<sup>m</sup>

An Inventory & Appraisment of y<sup>e</sup> Estate of James Sherwood Deed taken by Vertue of an ord<sup>r</sup> of Princess Anne County Court dated y<sup>e</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> Day of this Instant Sept: wittness our hands y<sup>e</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> of Sept<sup>r</sup> 1701

	lb	tob <sup>o</sup>
1 old bed & boulster & pillowes & bedstead & a few old blanketts being all y <sup>e</sup> bedding . . . . .	290	
1 low table & forme & Seven old Cheres . . . . .	320	
2 old Chests & one old box . . . . .	160	
one hand mill & frame &c. . . . .	300	
3 milk payles two trayes & other milk Vessells w <sup>th</sup> Some other Lumber . . . . .	200	
4 Sider Casks . . . . .	110	
2 Iron potts & bailes & one pott hang <sup>r</sup> . . . . .	150	
3 Iron wedges one pestell one Spitt two old narrow axes two old broad hoes & 1 fizgig . . . . .	200	
to one old gun . . . . .	250	
to a persell of ffeathers . . . . .	120	
1 old wooling wheeles Linen D <sup>o</sup> 1 old Cutting Knife . . . . .	080	
one old poore mangy Scabby horse . . . . .	20	
	2200	
to 6 Ewes one weather one ram. . . . .	800	

Ed<sup>w</sup> Cannon Sen<sup>r</sup> Rich<sup>d</sup> Bonney          totall . . . . . 3000

An additionall account of w<sup>t</sup> is not here Inventoryed and appraised a true acc<sup>t</sup> given by me Grace Sherwood to y<sup>e</sup> best of my

knowledge & w<sup>ch</sup> is as ffolloweth (Viz<sup>th</sup>) one Sadle & bridle and two  
old with Basketts & a sadle & five head of Cattle & seven head of  
hoggs

Signum

GRACE ~~x~~ SHERWOOD

Princess Ann

At a Court the 7<sup>th</sup> Xber 1705 Present M<sup>r</sup> Ben<sup>o</sup> Burr<sup>o</sup> Coll<sup>o</sup> Edw:  
Moseley M<sup>r</sup> Jn<sup>o</sup> Cornick Cap<sup>t</sup> Hen: Chapman M<sup>r</sup> Jn<sup>o</sup> Richason  
Cap<sup>t</sup> Geo: Handcock Justices

Coll<sup>o</sup> Thorrowgood Came Late

Grace Sherwood Suing Luke Hill & Uxor In an action of Tres-  
pass of Assault & Batt<sup>ry</sup> Setting forth how y<sup>e</sup> Def<sup>ts</sup> Wife had As-  
saulted Bruised Maimed & Barbarously Beaten y<sup>ee</sup> pt: to her great  
damage fifty Pounds Sterr: Damage to w<sup>ch</sup> y<sup>ee</sup> Def<sup>ts</sup> by Rich<sup>d</sup> Cor-  
bitt their Att<sup>ny</sup> pleaded not Guilty & of this put themselves on y<sup>ee</sup>  
Country w<sup>th</sup> y<sup>e</sup> pt: in Like manner whereupon a Jury was Impan-  
elled and Sworne to try y<sup>e</sup> Case who Bring in their verd<sup>t</sup> wee of y<sup>e</sup>  
Jury doe in a Diff: depending Between Grace Sherrwood pt: &  
Luke Hill & Eliz<sup>bth</sup> his wife def<sup>t</sup> find for y<sup>e</sup> pt: twenty Shill: Sterr:  
Damages w<sup>th</sup> Cost. Mark Powell foreman &c<sup>a</sup> on y<sup>e</sup> pt. motion  
the Jurys verd<sup>t</sup> is ord<sup>r</sup> to be Recorded accordingly ord<sup>r</sup> y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Def<sup>t</sup>  
pay to y<sup>ee</sup> pl: Twenty Shill Ster: Damages w<sup>th</sup> Cost Alis Exo<sup>o</sup>

Princess Ann

At a Court held y<sup>e</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> Xber 1705

Whereas y<sup>e</sup> fforeman of y<sup>e</sup> Jury Impanelled in a Suit depending  
between Grace Sherwood ag<sup>t</sup> Luke Hill & wife y<sup>e</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> Instant Omit-  
ted to Sign y<sup>ee</sup> verd<sup>t</sup> Soe y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> on noe Judgm<sup>t</sup> Could pass It is there-  
fore ord<sup>r</sup> y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> same be stayed till y<sup>e</sup> next Court for y<sup>e</sup> Sherr: to  
Sum Mark Powell foreman to Court to give further & full Sattis-  
faccion as shall be demanded of him by y<sup>e</sup> Court in y<sup>r</sup> behalfe

Princess Ann At a Court held y<sup>e</sup> 3<sup>d</sup> of Jan<sup>ry</sup> 1705-6

Whereas Luke Hill & uxor Som<sup>d</sup> Grace Sherwood to this Court  
in Suspition of witchcraft & she fayling to apear it is therefore  
ord<sup>r</sup> y<sup>t</sup> attachm<sup>t</sup> to y<sup>e</sup> Sherr do Issue to attach her body to ans<sup>r</sup> y<sup>e</sup>  
s<sup>d</sup> Som next Court

ffeb<sup>ry</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> 1705-6

Suite for Suspition of witchcraft brought by Luke Hill ag<sup>t</sup> Grace  
Sherwood is ord<sup>r</sup> to be referr till to morr<sup>o</sup>

ffeb<sup>ry</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> 1705-6

Whereas a Compl<sup>t</sup> was brought ag<sup>t</sup> Grace Sherrwood on Suspi-  
tion of witchcraft by Luke Hill &c: & y<sup>e</sup> matter being after a long  
time debated & ord<sup>r</sup> y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Hill pay all fees of this Compl<sup>t</sup> & y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup>  
s<sup>d</sup> Grace be here next Court to be Searched according to y<sup>e</sup> compl<sup>t</sup>